

Health Care

The New Health Care Law

For decades, I have worked hard to reform our nation's broken health care system. The rising costs of health care are on an unsustainable path and we as a country can no longer ignore the problem.

Last year, I voted for a comprehensive health care reform bill, the Affordable Care Act, because the legislation, while not perfect, provides Tennesseans the only realistic hope for getting a fair deal in today's health insurance markets by encouraging better private-market competition.

This bill will build a stronger, healthier America, and I invite you to read my op-ed from the Nashville Tennessean on my decision to vote in favor of this comprehensive bill. [Click here](#) for more details on my role in the health reform debates of 2009-2010.

Elements of the new law will be phased in over the next several years, and we've already seen a lot of changes. For people under 65 who can't get coverage because of a pre-existing condition, there's now a pre-existing condition health insurance plan available.

Children with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, are no longer denied coverage. For people under 65 who can't get coverage because of a pre-existing condition, there's now a pre-existing condition health insurance plan available. In Middle Tennessee, 2,700 young adults are now able to stay on their parents' health care plan. Our seniors in Medicare Part D have received relief in lower prices on their prescription drugs.

To view an interactive timeline of all of the changes, [click here](#). You can also read the full text of the implementation plan [here](#).

Like any other major legislation in Congress, we should continue to make improvements over the next few years. The new law isn't perfect, and it doesn't solve all our health care problems. Republicans and Democrats should work together to fix the law, not repeal the law.

Protecting Medicare

Medicare is one of the most important programs in our country, and its rising costs are big contributors to our nation's deficit problems. We must ensure the program's solvency for current and future beneficiaries while also ensuring it doesn't break the bank. To view how Medicare is financed, check [this website](#).

Earlier this year I sponsored a bipartisan bill, the Medicare Information Act, to show every American how Medicare really works. Every year, American taxpayers receive a Social Security letter that provides a concise, user-friendly record of their total contributions and a summary of their estimated annual benefits. The Medicare Information Act expands this statement so that every eligible taxpayer and beneficiary would receive information on their lifetime Medicare contributions and benefits.

Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is a large and ever-growing problem that drives up health care costs, takes lives, and eats away at communities. Tennessee is one of the worst offenders, and that's why I recently co-sponsored the Pill Mill Crackdown Act of 2011 (H.R. 1065), a bipartisan bill to increase penalties for entities or people that distribute controlled substances illegally or for non-medical reasons.

Promoting Innovation & Accessibility

Innovation and accessibility are vital to improving the quality of our health care system. From new electronic medical records that will streamline patient care to continuing research for cures to disease and access to the most effective medicines, we must continue finding ways to make the system better. I recently signed on to a bipartisan letter to Dr. Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, on behalf of Type One diabetes patients who would like access to new treatments.

Recent News & Updates

Links & Additional Resources

Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan

- Apply for the federal plan for people under 65 who can't get coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

Health Care Law - Explore both private and public health coverage options and learn more about the new health care law.

Food Safety - Get alerts on life-saving food recalls and helpful tips for keeping food safe, from the trusted source for food safety information.

My Medicare - Medicare's free, secure online service for accessing personalized information regarding your Medicare benefits and services.

Insure Kids - Find Tennessee-specific information about health insurance coverage for children under Medicaid and CoverKids, Tennessee's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Let's Move for Healthier Children - Join America's move to raise a healthier generation of kids. Tennessee ranks fifth in the nation for overweight or obese children.

Department of Health & Human Sciences - Engage with the HHS as it makes its operations more transparent to the public.

Hospital Compare – Compare hospitals in your area based on patient feedback and quality of care measures.

Nursing Home Comparison – Detailed information about every Medicare and Medicaid-certified nursing home in the country.

Stop Medicare Fraud – Learn how to prevent and report Medicare fraud.